

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NSC-10

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R 181610Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8692

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 5314

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, BE,CI

SUBJ: BELGIAN REACTIONS TO CHILE COUP

1. GOB ISSUED COMMUNIQUE SEPT 14 CONDEMNING OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVERNMENT AND PAYING HOMAGE TO MEMORY OF ALLENDE AND TO VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE. COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT FONMIN VAN ELSANDE HAD EXPRESSED TO CHILEAN AMBASSADOR GOB'S CONCERN FOR MAINTENANCE OF HUMAN AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES. IT ALSO ANNOUNCED SUSPENSION OF BELGIAN AID TO CHILE, ALTHOUGH CONTRACTS ALREADY CONCLUDED AND COMMITMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS WILL BE RESPECTED.

2. DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING COUP TOOK PLACE IN BRUSSELS AND LIEGE ON SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14, RESPECTIVELY. ESTIMATED BY PRESS TO HAVE INCLUDED THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS EACH, DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ORGANIZED AND ATTENDED LARGELY BY LEFT BUT INCLUDED MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS AS WELL. IN BRUSSELS, SPEAKERS DEMANDED THAT GOB BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NEW REGIME, TERMINATE AID, AND WITHDRAW TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL. (FYI, POLICY OF GOB IS TO RECOGNIZE STATES RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTS. END FYI) IN LIEGE, CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION LEADER CHARGED US WITH
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PLAYING "UGLY ROLE" IN COUP. IN SEPARATE ACTIONS COUP HAS BEEN DENOUNCED BY PROMINENT SOCIALIST LEADERS INCLUDING

MINISTER OF LABOR GLINNE AND STATE SECRETARY FOR COOPERATION PETRY, AS WELL AS BY WILFRIED MARTENS, PRESIDENT OF FLEMISH SOCIAL CHRISTIANS. BRUSSELS SOCIALIST ISSUED CALL FOR URGENT MEETING OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL TO TAKE STEPS TO ASSIST CHILEAN SOCIALIST AND UNDERTAKE STRUGGLE AGAINST NEW REGIME.

3 BELGIAN SOCIAL AND LABOR PRESS HAS UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED COUP, WITH SOME EDITORIALIST HINTING AT US OR INTERNATIONAL CAPITALIST INVOLVEMENT. OTHER PAPERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT WHILE ALLENDE DOWNFALL TRAGIC, SEEDS WERE TO BE FOUND IN HIS OWN REGIME AND INTERNAL CHILEAN SITUATION. CATHOLIC DAILY LA LIBRE BELGIQUES'S RESPECTED COLUMNIST, PAUL STRUYE, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF BELGIAN SENATE PLACED CHILE COUP IN BROADER CONTEXT OF LATIN AMERICAN TRADITION OF MILITARY TAKEOVER. HE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT CHILE COUP PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTING FOR WORLD OPINION BECAUSE IT TERMINATED LOYAL EFFORTS TO CONCILIATE HUMANISTIC SOCIALISM WITH LEGALITY WHILE ESCHEWING VIOLENCE, AS DUBCEK HAD TRIED TO HUMANIZE COMMUNIST REGIME IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. STRUYE NOTED THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE US INVOLVED IN COUP AND THAT IT UNLIKELY USG WOULD RISK SUCH INVOLVEMENT AT TIME OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN US. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, HOWEVER CONDEMNALBE CHILEAN MILITARY'S ACTION, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT ALLENDE REGIME CREATED SERIOUS DISCONTENT AMONG IMPORTANT SECTORS OF CHILEAN POPULATION AND FAILED IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE POPULAR UNITY. STRAUZ-HUPE

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